INTERCULTURAL LANGUAGE SOCIALIZATION: THREATS OF FRANCO UPON THE RULES OF VOCABULARY USE AND LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC

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ABSTRACT

Philosophy of the Language is based on the fact that it is the only way for communication among people whether written or spoken or even signals or pictures. It transfers culture from time to time and from a place to another. People create and develop the language form all along history to fit their need to communicate and making adaptation to inventions. A lot of people withdraw in communication because they don't acquire the language they need to do that. As a way of mostly famous these days; franco plays as an important technique used to replace the formal way of written expressions and sentences. This paper handles an analysis of how and why this newly emerging language can affect the original and the learned language as it combines both especially in structure and vocabulary. As a way to escape the difficulties in language use, people get used to apply the franco in chatting and posting in communication social networks but officially they still need to use the official language. Technology plays a great role in spreading this phenomenon especially within social networks like Facebook or twitter for its easiness and being related to both Arabic and English.

KEYWORDS: Franco, Technology, Language Problems, Inter-Culutrism, Communication

INTRODUCTION

As human beings we are verbally alert of the significance of language both as a means of communication and a tool of instruction. Communication is a two way interactive process and its importance can be found in our professional as well as in our daily personal lives. Myers & Hilliard (1997:p.5) state that: "A language is a potential space of expression of the Self, a space that facilitates the relationship between people and the establishment of social interaction. As a determining factor of socialization and of personal self-esteem, a language gives one the means to develop the consciousness of oneself and of the others, to translate attitudes and values and to have access to knowledge and to demonstrate his skills and abilities." Well established linguistic skills enable individuals to establish and maintain social relationships with others, to express and to share their thoughts, ideas and feelings, to present and to understand the world around them. Language is also intricately connected to and contributes to the individual's cognitive development, as well as his sense of identity and belonging.Being fluent in language as whole and written language in particular is really a problem in front of a lot of people whichprevent them from building right communication or getting in touch with others or even supporting their work. Franco bring solutions to some problems like being unable to sue appropriate structure and vocabulary enough to be fluent in communication in addition avoiding some misspelled vocabulary in a target language. But at the same time it represent a critical threat for both Arabic and English languages namely vocabulary and structure areas. Let's see how this really affects linguistic competence for none natives in both languages Arabic and English.

What is Franco?

No dictionaries up till now presented a specific definition for franco; however before any discussion it should be cleared that it is an Arabic invention. It simply means expressing slangs and daily life vocabulary using English simples and letters. Or in other words; the user will express his messages in the Arabic language but not in the Arabic letters. Other terms that handled the term francois Franco Arab music which refers to a style similar to modern Arabic Pop where there is a fusion of Arabic and Western music. Leading artists in this genre include Dalida. Here in this context it is meant to use franco in relation to language.It is used as a contact language between persons who share neither a common native tongue nor a common national culture and for whom English is the chosen foreign language of communication (Firth, 1996: p.240). This language cannot be translated may be because it has no rules but partially it has no source or origin. Even it has no glossary or dictionaries and may be a lot of people know it by effort.It is giving the expressions used an Arabic features but its form is English; it is a new writing style spreads around the world especially the Arab world; it's not Arabic or English. It's a mixture between both of them. It has its own name depending on the language by which person transliterate Arabic, therefore it is known in Egypt Arabish or Arablish for English is the first foreign language here. The broader phenomenon is known as Franco Arab. The roots of this phenomenon go back to 1990 when the western text communication technologies became increasingly prevalent in the Arab world such as personal computers, cellular phones, emails and worldwide webs. At that time, Arabic alphabet wasn't an optional feature and Latin alphabet was commonly used in all of these forms of communication. So, how could Arab users of this new western system communicate? We may know that Written Arabic contains 28 letters which include sounds that are not used in English like *kh* (خ) and *gh* (غ). Arabs had no choice but transliterating their Arabic into English using Latin letters. Not only letters those were used in this process but also numbers because some Arabic letters don't have an approximate phonetic equivalent in Latin script. So, they used numerals and other characters to express their Arabic letters, e.g. number "3″ is used to stand for the Arabic letter "ع" (Ayn) as they look alike and the number (7) represent the Arabic letter h (ح). In spite of the large number of Franco Arabic users, some individualsthink that it's a serious phenomenon that may affects the use of real Arabic & real English. They can distort both Arabic & English by passing time. Others find it a very easy way to communicate as it has no rules and it is interpretative because of its informal nature.

Paper Questions

This research used analysis approach to analyze reasons behind people resorting to the use of franco as a style of writing communication. Another target for the paper is to find out how much it can affect the use of both languages (Arabic and English) in relation to adding new form for vocabulary use and grammar rules. Following the starting point of this phenomena, it is clear that there is some development in both elements mentioned (vocabulary and grammar) but not vital or fatal development to the extent that can change the language itself. So paper questions can be formulated in two main ones:

First: what are the factors that pushed users to use franco and not English or Arabic?

Second: Does it affect both languages in relation to grammar rules and vocabulary?

To find out a reasoning answer for these two questions the researcher got in among the real users of franco in Facebook and twitter networks and tried to get convincing opinions and reasons from them.

Deficiency in language can restrict communication and affect social integration (Gilbert et. al, 1998). Franco users unconsciously uses one of communication strategies techniques namely borrowing and language switching however, they modify partially their application by not fully using whole English words and using their fluency in mother tongue to apply language switching by using English letters and symbols. This may reflect some self-satisfaction as they feel standing in between their native language (Arabic) and using English as a sort of following updates in communication. They want to extract their scope of communication but in their own way. It is a type of code switching process where they pass messages and communicate ideas within their environment. This competence in code switching (which is defined as a process of switching from one language into its alternatives) can be for them an indicator of competence in linguistics; but the user and the reader should have the same coding use to understand and be understood from other users of this language. Using franco can be seen as language interference or deviation which occur as a result of their familiarity with more than one language or as involuntary influence of one language on another.

Linguistic competence alone is not enough for users of a language to be competent in that language (Krasner, 1999). They should know that words and expressions that are appropriate in their own writing community may be perceived differently by members of the target language writing community. They already know language rules and principles but they don't want to use them for its difficulty or length in spelling which can cause mistakes hence represents their language deficiency in some of these rules or expressions. They have to understand that, in order for communication to be successful, language use must be associated with other culturally appropriate behavior or awareness. Herring (2001) points out that there are non-standard features for language used for communication in non-official environment which are usually incorrect and less coherent. That is one of the reasons that facilitate or motivate the users to use it as it has no rules or standards and at the same time it is considered one of the active reasons for highly distributing it especially among users of non - official language use environment. These non-standardized features are generally not due to inattentiveness or not knowing the standard forms, but are often deliberate choices to minimize typing effort. According to Pica (1994), negotiation of meaning requires that participants in a conversation work with one another linguistically "to achieve the needed comprehensibility" (Ibid,p. 494). The term negotiation refers to "modification and restructuring of interaction" (Ibid, p. 494) Communication through technology represents that idea clearly.

Communication of meaning, whether strategic or not, is always a collaborative activity between participants. Previous studies of oral communication placed greater emphasis on the lexical side of communication problems and pay litter but rare attention to the social- interactional context (intercultural context, interpersonal context or communication context) of utterance. These three sides are more considered her in this study as there is great change in the nature of all of them (Dobao&Martínez, 2007). Written communication now became easier and targeted than oral due to the technologies used in this area. If anyone wants to communicate beyond one's own local environment, he will have to (and often want to) learn a language which links one with wider environments of communication with a language of high communicative value (de Swaan,2001) with a language that all know even if they don't use or even don't want to use it. With a language one feels freedom and be away of being criticized or even under stress of others watching or following his style of writing.

Nature of Franco

Expressive language is a process of formulating ideas into words and sentences, in accordance with the set of grammatical and semantic rules of language (Cantwell and Baker, 1987). As a tool it emerged as a need for quick and natural way for communication. Written communication becomes more familiar and be used more which requires more

fluency in language which is also not represented especially in everyday language. Unlike the ordinary languages it has no formality and informality style. In English and Arabic too there is what we call formal style but with franco it is only one style and no formality or informality in its style. However there is flexibility to add any vocabulary that define certain group of people or society which means that it plays as standardized tool for all users. All what they have to do is to explain or tell about any word h/s/he add in his /her writings.

Motives behind using this strange language are not clearly defined and are not stable among users. Some of them consider it a sign of ambiguity about the user himself by which he can hide a lot of information about himself or it can be a type of periphrasis. What makes it continue is the ability of its users to read its code and understand it. It is known that the official language keeps the original language ongoing and prevents it from vanishing or being overwritten by another language gradually due to the acceptance of the new language in official use or documentation hence it is always in the slang form of use as a tool for communication in non-official environments. It is also distributed among ages that have same attitudes and thoughts or among users who can learn and use it quickly. Logically arise here a question about if this young age accepted it once in their official life could it replace the original language? The answer for this question will be of great position for linguists if it increases among individuals and be used in different tasks one day. The use of language is just like coding and recoding; and if users are able to code and recode it will go on but if one is able to code but not able to recode the communication process stops even if they have the same base of knowledge because there will be misconception and understanding stop between both sides. This concept of use is based on what is called ***cognitive conflict theory*** where knowledge led to replace old language or disharmony till there is harmony and coding and recoding happen then using become easier and familiar to others.

Some of the users explained that they use it as type of fashion or new trend for updating culture in front of others who don't know it. Others said that it is quicker in writing and even in learned than the official English or Arabic. The flexibility to add to both languages allows new vocabulary to be added to the language like television and computer were added to both Arabic and English. In Arabic some vocabulary developed in meaning even to the opposite like that elk or علق which now become a type of insulting or abuse that deserve a law punishment. In that base language is considered symbols to express need whatever the words are hence it express needs and considered a way of communication. In Arabic there are rules in Lexus and grammar that could not be even thought of changing like ***alrafe*** and ***alnasb*** and so on. So, it can be concluded that at the side of knowledge a lot of individuals know it especially technology users but others who don't like technology applications don't like franco. Practically less people use it either because they don't like it or don't know it.

In addition this language has no system; we can't say that there is gender agreement or subject agreement for the sentence structure. You can't decide modifiers or helping verbs or even tense structure. Unlike Arabic and English it is signs and corpus used in general and known for all users. Usually any development to a language is to borrow complete vocabulary from others and at the same time not all words are borrowed but the most closer and also the ones that can't be transmitted to the native language like those in **English:**

Between the 8th and 10th centuries, the Scandinavians raided and plundered Britain. They also started extensive settlements. Scandinavian may be the most important of the external influences on English grammar and vocabulary. Words such as *egg, keel, leg, ill, odd, bask, call, crave, screech*, and *thrive* are borrowed from it. The disappearance of OldEnglish endings might also be the result of the Scandinavian influence on the grammar.

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Scandinavian words are often not seen as 'foreign' since they are very similar to wordsof English origin and are often 'everyday' words. The latter shows the Scandinavian andEnglish lived in close contact. (p.11)

Also in Arabic we used English words like computer and electronic because we don't have alternates in native language. What is very difficult in this language is that it has the frame of a language (English) and the meaning or expressions of the other one like *sa7by* or *gamda*. If one look at the spelling of it he can't decide specific letters to use; as it has no spelling rules;its alphabet is a mix between letters and numbers like the above example. Another point is that it shrinks the words to just letters like when you say *4* instead of *for* or *four*, *u* instead of *you* and also *r* instead of *are*. Users' repetition of these words in this way may lead to more deficiencies in spelling which is already there in proper use of foreign language.This can be of great danger if it is used in the learning context among EFL users which transfer the practice from the original language to this new slang and therefore weakening the English language.

The main events are perhaps the Renaissance love for Greek and Latin terms, the post–1700 spread of English to the colonies — resulting in new words being adopted and varieties being formed — and the changes in the technology from the 19th century to the present.(p.9)

This means that technology has the main role in the presence of this communication signs. The speed of being spread among users is very critical and this is due to the internet as a tool for spreading culture if not among people from different places or nations; it did among the users of the same native country.

Old English (OE) 450–1150

Middle English (ME) 1150–1500

Early Modern (EMod) 1500–1700

Modern (ModE) 1700–now

The above parts are a list of the major periods that English is usually divided in. It indicates that the periods between each change in the language is a long period of time and happened gradually. The creation of franco almost takes about 10 years from the beginning of the 90s which means that it is the smallest period of time for any change in any language. From a comment in Facebook as the most famous communicative network posting" *Elragelellya3d gnbo da shbhellykan by2ol sh5lel f film slam yas7by"*analyzing this text one find verbs in Arabic like *a3d* and *by2ol* also there is prepositions like *gnbo* and *fwhich* indicates what I explained above.

All along history there are a lot of changes in languages. These changes are due to borrowing whole words or part of them from other languages. The majority of some changes are morphemes transferred from one language to another namely, lexical borrowing and borrowing of grammatical morphemes, which have no immediate structural consequences in themselves, because they don't alternative morpho-syntax. Thus the idea of borrowing from languages is already considered a factor of language changes. As Weinreich (1965: 63) puts it, there is no "easy way of measuring" how the change in a certain language happen. It is, however, common to assume that words are borrowed first, then sounds, and then grammar (p.107).In Arabic recently a lot of words are imposed in Arabic and used freely without looking to its origin or source language. Some words are totally changed in meaning like what I explained.As we go on to evolve into a society more and more reliant on the written vs. spoken language of communication, the importance of perception plays a bigger role. The understanding of what our expressions imply vs. what the receiver infers can often be as different as if it was

spoken in a foreign language.Over time people use the words without asking about its origin and without looking to the development of its meaning they just use it for a target of expressing their opinion in a certain situation. And that is the idea of franco now. But the difference here is that they use the letters to express Arabic sounds and this make the subject like no change in any of both Arabic and English just something away from both of them. In other words, still there are some rules controlling this language in spite of the varied changes happened all along the time in all aspects of the language.

Franco Population

FL users are different in their way and ability to use the language but they always look at themselves as good users if they are able to be great in structure and grammar. Thus francodiagnose the users problems as most of them unconsciously agree or indicate that they have problems in these linguistic sides namely grammar and structure. Written communication is now the fast and easiest as individuals are using comments and chat or blogs as communication tools and this type suits them more..Being perfect in spelling may be not a vital problem due to the tools that technology supports in written context but how to express ideas and meaning come to be the target. So lack of vocabulary and having lexical problems and grammatical incompatibility are considered the main reason for using franco. Users of language also differs in their desire to use franco as for adults they know or may be consider identity in their usage of language, they prefer to use Arabic even if they know English well. But young users especially the age 12 and 18 prefer to use franco for the following reasons.

The idea of gender is vanished in using franco as they don't think about accuracy of writing. It has little letters and no rules of structure or grammar so it is easier and even any committed a mistake; it can be illustrated based on no rules or principles. Most of franco users don't use it with natives so they don't feel any difficulty in using it.

> **Ahmed:** I think if the other side writer is a Native, it's very important that we try to know if he or she has got our message or not, but if it's like us, Egyptian or even Arabic communicator, I think we do not have so much problem because our level of writing, our culture and our way of thinking is similar so there is no so much problem, I think (Interview, 6/09/2013).

In Ahmed's comment fear of being not understood is not there and the same culture does exist among them. The opposite is there if the communicator is a native one. The franco can't be used officially but it is restricted in a one social rank and even cultured people use it but in close relations only.With nonnative communicators users never think about their audience's comprehension or adjusting his needs; Thus, he tries to stop thinking a lot about his partner in order to avoid being anxious and nervous.Using similes that can express emotions in typing and freely with franco made the problem of facing others much easier.

> **Ali:** I insert some friendly faces, to break the strict of the text, and try to use them instead of words to give my talk vitality, this makes me comfortable and get us more closer to reality (Interview, 09/08/2013).

This supports the friendly talk and facilitates and supports the importance of perceiving the environment as friendly in order to decrease the anxiety of text. This part; although decrease the gab among cultures and get users closer, it also decreases the correctness of using language corpus, that deepen the language rules and principles. This easiness of inserting smiling faces and emotions in the text granted it vitality and motivated the users to resort to applying franco features on their writing even if they are writing ordinarily and gradually get them use it easily.

The idea of practice makes progress is applied here

Enass: Thinking about meaning transfer is the most important aspect in my written text. 'How to express or write which word is more important' (forgetting the word, expression) is my major problem rather than 'what to write' (Interview, 31/08/2013).

Another aspect is about correcting spelling. In ordinary writing whether in Arabic or English you have to care about structure and syntax but with francothey never care about sentence correctness.

Najar: I check my sentences in speaking for any error however for other learners conveying

Nora: meaning might be more important than structure... I try and am very concerned to produce correct grammatical complete sentences when writing officially (Interview, 05/08/2008).

She believed that, in official use of language, producing error-free sentences which are grammatically correct is more important than mere meaning transfer especially if it is sociable context in order not to misevaluate her personality which she consider her language performance is a clear representative for her. Thus from this analysis for the responses it may be deduced that they resort to franco because it is closer to slangs where they feel free of mistakes that utilize a great deal of their thinking when they write in other contexts like work, exams or even letters for different natives.

The setting of schools and universities concerns about writing correctly however still language users don't master the language because may be they don't facilitate real communication among them. Users thus feel freedom when they liberate themselves from rules and principles and at the same time use motions that add more fun to franco language which they can't use it officially in their official or academic writing.One of the reasons for using franco is that it is unfamiliar to adults and difficult for them to read which is considered a way of running from control for some of users and is considered a way of setting privacy for them.

Franco and Vocabulary

A question may arise here to decide whether franco is a new born language or not? As a sequence of language development for any language, the components of franco are derived from Arabic words in sound or pronunciation but written in the English form and also is mixed among different shapes of English letters and numbers. This may be considered as an influence of Arabic and at the same time English but here franco is not a language in basic concept and developed by having vocabulary from another language like English. Thus, the language wecurrently refer to as English is the partial result of the borrowingsthe influence of other languages on English is estimated that half of the vocabulary of English comes from French and Latin. (Baugh&Cable, 1993)

However, even if we knew all the words of franco (and many are derived from Arabic and English), we still would not 'know' the franco language. We need rules to put the words together into sentences, i.e. a grammar. Grammar generates a language: the structure of the sounds (phonetics and phonology), words (morphology), sentences (syntax) and the rules for understanding the meaning (semantics) and appropriate use (pragmatics) like the two source languages namely Arabic and English. In this point there is a similarity between the franco and old English as when it first started to borrow from French and Latin there was no words like *of* and *the* and *we* which means that the structure has not restricted to some rules that control the modern English.

The language emerges among a number of users who like to createa certain type of communication amongthem, even if it is done with signs or technology features. The two sides of communication here need same background of input and output for their message recognition. Both sides are required to have the same language and same ability to express and comprehend the other. When using franco they may omit grammatical words such as 'is, a, have' or make mistakes with word endings for example –ing, -'s, -ed'or mix between Arabic expressions in meaning and different in form. They are unable to retrieve the exact words they require resulting in frequent pauses or over-use of fillers such as 'you know, thingy. The emergence of new terms in English that need to be simplified added to the terms of Franco to be used in same name but different concept.

Using Franco may lead to difficulties in any or all of the areas of language, including morphology, syntax/grammar, semantics, and pragmatics and even in phonology as it creates what can be named a language mess.In case of using Franco, language development in brain is affected and language unnaturally develops structure without applying its rules asChomsky referred to. So, it affects the cognitive domain of knowledge for individuals.A previous scientific explanation was given by Chomsky in a book by Gelderen (2006) where he showed that "problems of language may start with what we call over-regularization where individuals will say things they have never heard or used as it comes as a pattern of imitation, such as "The cats eated the mouses" rather than "The cats ate the mice." This is because irregular words follow the regular rules they know about language this mistake may be because they have heard adults say something like "eated" or "mouses" due to the memorization of rules without real application for it, because they are not well acquiring the language and therefore they could not just be imitating language they have heard, but also repeating rules without understanding its application too. However, you can easily see that, although the first sentence is grammatically incorrect, in some respects it could be correct. In English we do add -ed for the past tense and -s for plurals. However, we have exceptions to that rule, called irregular verbs or nouns. When individuals make this type of grammatical error they are showing that they have learned a pattern, but they are applying it to words that don't follow that pattern.

In the same way the users of Franco use words he never see or heard from anybody except the Franco users. He uses English form of words that is familiar in Arabic sounds or slang but no spelling rule or basics of grammar to even imitate in transferring it to the others and so on to help practicing a language they never learn or know which means strengthening a language use without rules or settled vocabulary spelling principles.Children are creating these words from their own understanding of grammar, and Chomsky believes that the basic principles of grammar are innate. Clearly, we do not all speak the same language and the rules for grammar are not the same in all languages, so how can there be a universal grammar? Chomsky believes that there are basic language principles that are hardwired in the brain, similar to the basic principles that underlie the operation of the hard drive of your computer. Just as your computer's hard drive can run many different types of software, the language structures in your brain can process the specific characteristics of many different languages. Also if it was innate they may not have deficiencies in applying or using and hence they never resort to Franco.

Studies show, however, that intercultural contact in and of itself does not necessarily lead to cultural understanding. Individuals' language ability, linguistic style, academic cultures, and institutional and cultural characteristics can affect their negotiation of meaning and cultural understanding (Belz 2002; 2003; Belz and Müller-Hartmann 2003; O'Dowd and Ritter 2006).

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In sum, intercultural studies indicate that just putting people together to communicate does not ensure cultural understanding, which depends on a negotiation of differences in genres, interaction styles, local institutional cultures, and culture more broadly.

To sum up, Franco may have Some threats to English language like deepening the language errors that still users suffer from and even adding more strange mistakes that may never be corrected because no source to it. **Using Franco may also** destroys the vocabulary spelling as it mix between letters and numbers and basically no stable spelling for the vocabulary used. **Moreover, it may** destroy sentence structure as it has no rules also in this concern. **Ironically it** may restrict communication as not all individuals know it or think it is not suitable to the Arabic culture. **At the same time, there are some threats to Arabic language too.**

Like English Arabic language errors also can be deepened also as a result of not using even the Arabic letters in their writings. They are practicing the Arabic also but away from its appropriate form. Like English too Franco may destroys the vocabulary spelling as it mix between letters and numbers even if it enables the users to speak fluently and even if they are now spreading their cultural thoughts and ideas. Same can be said about structure of sentences and desire to use. Also may help in transferring bad culture for other nations especially it is used in social communicative networks…etc.

Little Benefits can be summarized like Giving the young extra space to talk freely, Giving the chance to express thoughts and ideas from their culture, Getting more understandable and understanding others and this in turn motivate users to get engaged in communication, positive social interactions with other people are heavily dependent upon effective language and communication skills.

In conclusion, Franco however, being famous and desired can never replace or even be a new born language. It can't be used officially in documentation like faxes or letters or even e-mails that relates to business among traders or companies. It may be considered a type of slang developmental language as it is used within non-official environments.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A

Some Franco Arabic writing expressions:

(2)Stands for "hamza" in Arabic "ء" and this hamza have a sense of glottal stop.

(a /aa) Stands for "alif" in Arabic "أ" and it is along vowel /a/.

(b) Stands for the Arabic letter "baa" (ب). /b/

(t) is used instead of the Arabic letter "taa" (ت) /t/.

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(th/s) can be used in the place of the Arabic letter (ث)

(g/j) are used instead of the arabic letter (ج) /g/.

(7) Stands for the Arabic letter (ح) /h/.

(7′/5/kh) can be used instead of (خ) /x/.

(d) Stands for (د) /d/.

(th/z) are used instead of (ذ) /z/.

(r) Stands for (ر) /r/.

(s) Stands for (س) /s/.

(sh) Corresponds to (ش) /sh/ (sheen).

(S/9.nine) Can be used instead of (ص) /s/hard (saad.).

(D/9′.nine) Stand for (ض) /d/ hard (daad)

(t/6) stand for (ط) /t/ taa)

(Z/6′) stands for (ظ) /z/ hard (zaa).

(3) Stands for (ع) /Ayn/.

(3′/ gh) stands for (غ) /ghein/.

(f) Used in the place of (ف) /f/ (faa).

(q/8) stands for (ق) /q/ (qaaf).

(k) Stands for (ك) /k/ (kaaf).

(L) (ل) /L/ (laam).

(m) (م) /m/ (meem).

(n) (ن) /n/ (noon).

(h) (ه) /h/ (haa).

(O/u/oo/w/ou) (و) /w/ (waaw).

(Y/e/i/ee/ei/ie) (ى) /y/ (yaa).

This new writing style on the internet become so popular that it is used to express everyday speech and many abbreviations for this speech are invented by the its users such as some Arabic expressions:

S3_____ Salamo3alikom : and this is the most common greeting in Egypt and Muslim world it means peace be upon you.

inA_____ in shaa Allah: this is a very common expression in Muslim & Arab countries and it means god's willing hopefully wills.

msA_____ ma shaa' Allah: it's also very common in the Muslim world, meaning It's because of god.

l7l …….. alhamdulellah: Thanks be to Allah.

Other abbreviations are made up for the most commonly used English expressions in Arab world:

LoL_____ laugh out loud

WB_____ welcome back

Tom_____ tomorrow

2 day_____ today

plz_____ please

thnx_____ thanks

B4_____ before

Bbm_____ black berry me

Fbm_____ face book me

Btw_____ by the way

Hru_____ how are you

Hrt_____ how are things

C u tom____ see you tomorrow

(For more info & abbreviations, visit www. Internetslang.com)

Face book, Yahoo, Google and Twitter are the most places in which such strange language is common. It's normal to find a complete conversation in Franco Arabic;

A: hi how r u?

B: tamam w enta 3amel eh ? (& you how are you doing?)

A: anakowayyesl7l. (I'm fine thanks be to Allh)

B: eh a5bar sho3'lak? (what's new about your worl?)

A: kullotamam w enta. (everything is ok,and you?)

B: l7l..bosana raye7 anam delw2ti ashofakbokramashi. (Thanks be to Allah.. look! I'will go to sleep now.See you tomorrow.Ok)

A: mashibye.(Ok. bye)